

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION--HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE, ITEM 5

1. DEBATE ON SUBJECT ITEM OPENED FEBRUARY 23 WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP BY CHAIRMAN ALLANA (PAKISTANI REP ON THE HRC). ALLANA'S STATEMENT WAS DELIBERATELY LOW KEY AND CONCILIATORY. HE REMINDED THE COMMISSION OF THE CONCILIATORY WORDS AND NOTES OF PERSONAL PRAISE THAT DIEZ HAD USED IN THE UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE DEBATE IN SEPTEMBER.

2. AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF SPEAKERS, OF WHICH ABOUT ONE-THIRD HAVE BEEN NGO'S, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE DEBATE WHICH CONTINUED THROUGH TWO MEETINGS ON FEBRUARY 24. ABOUT 20 SPEAKERS REMAIN ON THE LIST FOR THE SCHEDULED LAST MEETING OF THE DEBATE ON THE ITEM, THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 27.

3. AFTER ALLANA'S PRESENTATION A LENGTHY STATEMENT
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WAS MADE BY AMBASSADOR DIEZ (CHILEAN UN PERMREP IN NEW YORK), WHO CONFINED HIMSELF LARGELY TO PROCEDURAL POINTS. OF ALL THE SPEAKERS SO FAR, ONLY URUGUAY HAS DEFENDED CHILE AND THIS DEFENSE WAS LIMITED TO PROCEDURAL GROUNDS.

4. STATEMENTS MADE SO FAR DURING THE DEBATE HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY SIMILAR. ALMOST ALL HAVE CALLED FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO ADMIT THE WORKING GROUP, FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP, AND HAVE DEPLORED THE CONTINUED REPRESSION IN CHILE. UK, SWEDEN AND CANADA HAVE MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF REPUDIATING THE DOUBLE STANDARD CRITICISM, WITH THE UK NOTING THAT THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM IS NOT TO DO LESS ABOUT CHILE BUT MORE ABOUT OTHER SITUATIONS.

5. WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN ALLANA, WHO HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONVERSATION WITH DIEZ, HAS TOLD USDEL THAT HE WILL PROPOSE "A WAY OUT" OF THE DILEMMA IN HIS FINAL STATEMENT, WHICH WILL BE FOR THE GOC TO SEND A DELEGATION TO GENEVA TO MEET FOR A WEEK WITH THE WORKING GROUP JUST TO TALK ABOUT PROCEDURES.

6. COMMENT: OUR PRESENT ESTIMATE IS THAT TWO DELEGATIONS, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY, WILL VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION AND AT LEAST FOUR (NIGERIA, PANAMA, PERU, JORDAN) WILL ABSTAIN. THERE IS STRONG NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP IN THE FACE OF THE REFUSAL OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO ADMIT IT. ON THE BASIS OF THE STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE DEBATE AND IN THE CORRIDORS, USDEL HAS BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT ALL MEMBERS SEEM DETERMINED TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT IMPASSE BETWEEN THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP AND THE GOC AND HOPE THAT AFTER THIS SESSION'S DISCUSSION THE WORKING GROUP

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WILL BE ADMITTED TO CHILE BY THE GOC. VANDEN HEUVEL

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